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vir·ile (vîr'el, -il') *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or having the characteristics of an adult male. 2. Having or showing masculine spirit, strength, vigor, or power. See Synonyms at **male**. 3. Capable of performing sexually as a male; potent. [Middle English, from Old French *viril*, from Latin *virilis*, from *vir*, man. See **wi-ro-** in Appendix.]

vir·il·ism (vîr'ə-lîz'am) *n.* The presence of male secondary sexual characteristics in a female.

vir·il·ity (və-rîl'i-tē) *n.* 1. The quality or state of being virile; manly character. 2. Masculine vigor; potency.

vir·i·li·za·tion (vîr'ə-lî-zā'shən) *n.* Development of male secondary sexual characteristics. —**vir·i·lize'** (-ə-lîz') *v.*

vi·ri·on (vîr'ē-ōn', vîr'ē-) *n.* A complete viral particle, consisting of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein shell and constituting the infective form of a virus. [VIR(US) + -ON¹.]

viro- or **vir-** *pref.* Virus; virogenesis. [From VIRUS.]

vi·ro·gene (vîr'ə-jēn') *n.* A gene capable of specifying the synthesis of a virus in a cell.

vi·ro·gen·e·sis (vîr'ə-jēn'î-sîs, -rə-) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz'). Production or formation of a virus. —**vi·ro·ge·net'ic** (-jə-nēt'ik), —**vi·ro·gen'ic** (-jēn'ik) *adj.*

vi·roid (vîr'oid') *n.* An infectious particle, similar to but smaller than a virus, that consists solely of a strand of RNA and is capable of causing disease in plants.

vi·rol·o·gy (vî-rōl'ə-jē) *n.* The study of viruses and viral diseases. —**vi·rol·og'ic·al** (vî-rō-lōj'î-kəl), **vi·rol·og'ic** (-ik) *adj.* —**vi·rol·o·gist** *n.*

vi·ro·sis (vî-rō'sîs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz). A disease caused by a virus.

vir·tu (vər-tōō', vîr-) also **ver·tu** (vər-) *n.* 1. A knowledge or love of or taste for fine objects of art. 2. Production of objects of art, especially fine antique objects d'art. [Italian *virtù*, virtue, virtu, from Latin *virtūs*, excellence, virtue. See VIRTUE.]

vir·tu·al (vûr'chōō-əl) *adj.* 1. Existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form, or name: *the virtual extinction of the buffalo*. 2. Existing in the mind, especially as a product of the imagination. Used in literary criticism of text. [Middle English *virtuall*, effective, from Medieval Latin *virtuālis*, from Latin *virtūs*, excellence. See VIRTUE.] —**vir·tu·al'ity** (-āl'i-tē) *n.*

virtual focus *n.* The point from which divergent rays of reflected or refracted light seem to have emanated, as from the image of a point in a plane mirror.

virtual image *n.* An image from which rays of reflected or refracted light appear to diverge, as from an image seen in a plane mirror.

vir·tu·al·ly (vûr'chōō-ə-lē) *adv.* 1. In fact or to all purposes; practically. 2. Almost but not quite; nearly.

virtual machine *n.* Computer Science. A computer designed to replicate copies of its entire hardware-software interface so that two operating systems can be run on a single computer.

virtual memory *n.* Computer Science. Computer memory, separate from the main memory of a specific machine, that can be used as an extension of the machine's main memory.

virtual reality *n.* Computer Science. A computer simulation of a real or imaginary system that enables a user to perform operations on the simulated system and shows the effects in real time.

vir·tue (vûr'chōō) *n.* 1. *a.* Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness. *b.* An example or kind of moral excellence: *the virtue of patience*. 2. Chastity, especially in a girl or woman. 3. A particularly efficacious, good, or beneficial quality; advantage: *a plan with the virtue of being practical*. 4. Effective force or power: *believed in the virtue of prayer*. 5. *virtues*. Theology. The fifth of the nine orders of angels. 6. *Obsolete*. Manly courage; valor. —**idiom.** *by (or in) virtue of.* On the grounds or basis of; by reason of: *well off by virtue of a large inheritance*. [Middle English *vertu*, from Old French, from Latin *virtūs*, manliness, excellence, goodness, from *vir*, man. See **wi-ro-** in Appendix.]

vir·tu·o·sa (vûr'chōō-ō'sə, -zə) *n.* A woman who is a virtuoso. [Italian, feminine of *virtuoso*, virtuoso. See VIRTUOSO.]

vir·tu·o·si (vûr'chōō-ō'sē) *n.* A plural of **virtuoso**.

vir·tu·o·si·ty (vûr'chōō-ō'sî-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The technical skill, fluency, or style exhibited by a virtuoso. 2. An appreciation for or interest in fine objects of art.

vir·tu·o·so (vûr'chōō-ō'sō, -zō) *n., pl. -sos* or **-si** (-sē). 1. A musician with masterly ability, technique, or personal style. 2. A person with masterly skill or technique in the arts. 3. A person who experiments or investigates in the arts and sciences; a savant. —**virtuoso** *adj.* Exhibiting the ability, technique, or personal style of a virtuoso: *a virtuoso performance*. [Italian, skilled, of great worth, virtuoso, from Late Latin *virtuosus*, virtuous, from Latin *virtūs*, excellence. See VIRTUE.] —**vir·tu·o·sic** (-ō'sîk, -zîk) *adj.* —**vir·tu·o·si·cal·ly** *adv.*

vir·tu·ous (vûr'chōō-əs) *adj.* 1. Having or showing virtue, especially moral excellence: *led a virtuous life*. 2. Possessing or characterized by chastity; pure: *a virtuous woman*. See Synonyms at **moral**. —**vir·tu·ous·ly** *adv.* —**vir·tu·ous·ness** *n.*

vi·ru·cide (vîr'ə-sîd') *n.* Variant of **viricide**.

vir·u·lent (vîr'yə-lənt, vîr'ə-) *adj.* 1. *a.* Extremely infectious, malignant, or poisonous. Used of a disease or toxin. *b.* Capable of causing disease by breaking down protective mechanisms of the

hateful: *virulent criticism*. See Synonyms at **poisonous**. 3. Intensely irritating, obnoxious, or harsh. [Middle English, from Latin *virulentus*, from *virus*, poison.] —**vir·u·lence**, **vir·u·len·cy** *n.* —**vir·u·lent·ly** *adv.*

vir·u·lif·er·ous (vîr'yə-lîf'ər-əs, vîr'ə-) *adj.* Carrying or containing a virus. [VIRUL(ENCE) + -FEROUS.]

vi·rus (vî'rəs) *n., pl. -ruses*. 1. *a.* Any of various simple submicroscopic parasites of plants, animals, and bacteria that often cause disease and that consist essentially of a core of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein coat. Unable to replicate without a host cell, viruses are typically not considered living organisms. *b.* A disease caused by a virus. 2. Something that poisons one's soul or mind: *the pernicious virus of racism*. 3. Computer Science. A computer virus. [Latin *virus*, poison.]

Vis (vès). An island of western Yugoslavia off the Dalmatian coast south-southwest of Split. Major naval battles occurred off the island in 1811 and 1866. In the first, the British defeated the French; in the second, the Austrians defeated the Italians.

vis. *abbr.* 1. Visibility. 2. Visual.

Vis. *abbr.* 1. Viscount. 2. Viscountess.

vi·sa (vē'zə) *n.* An official authorization appended to a passport, permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region. —**visa** *tr.v.* -sae'd, -sa-ing, -sas. 1. To endorse or ratify (a passport). 2. To give a visa to. [French, short for Latin (*carta*) *visa*, (the document has been) seen, from feminine past participle of *vidēre*, to see. See **weid-** in Appendix.]

vis·age (vîz'ij) *n.* 1. The face or facial expression of a person; countenance. See Synonyms at **face**. 2. Appearance; aspect: *the bleak visage of winter*. [Middle English, from Old French, from *vis*, from Latin *visus*, appearance, from past participle of *vidēre*, to see. See **weid-** in Appendix.]

Vi·sa·kha·pat·nam (vî-sā'kə-pūt'nəm) or **Vi·sha·kha·pat·nam** (-shā'-) also **Vi·za·ga·pa·tam** (vî-zā'gə-pūt'əm). A city of eastern India on the Bay of Bengal northeast of Madras. Established by the English as a trading post in 1683, it is a health resort and processing center with a protected harbor and shipping facilities. Population, 565,321.

Vi·sa·lia (vî-sāl'yə). A city of south-central California south-east of Fresno. Agricultural products of the San Joaquin Valley are important to its economy. Population, 49,729.

vis·ard (vîz'ərd, -ərd') *n.* Variant of **vizard**.

vis·à·vis (vē'zə-vē') *prep.* 1. Face to face with; opposite to. 2. Compared with. 3. In relation to. —**vis·à·vis** *adv.* Face to face. —**vis·à·vis** *n., pl. vis·à·vis* (-vēz', -vē'). 1. One that is face to face with or opposite to another. 2. A date or an escort, as at a party. 3. One that has the same functions and characteristics as another; a counterpart. [French : *vis*, face + *à*, to.] —**vis·à·vis** *adj.*

Vi·sa·yan (vî-sī'an) *n.* 1. A member of the largest ethnic group indigenous to the Philippines, found in the Visayan Islands. 2. The Austronesian language of the Visayans. —**Vi·say'an** *adj.*

Visayan Islands. An island group of the central Philippines in and around the **Visayan Sea** between Luzon and Mindanao.

Vis·by (vîz'bē, vēs'bū). A city of southeast Sweden on western Gotland Island on the Baltic Sea. It was a member of the Hanseatic League and a commercial center from the 10th to the 14th century but declined after its capture by the Danes in 1362. Visby was a pirate stronghold for the next two centuries and passed to Sweden in 1645. Population, 20,100.

vis·ca·cha (vî-skā'chə) *n.* Any of several gregarious, burrowing South American rodents of the genera *Logotomus* and *Lagidium*, related to and resembling the chinchilla. [Spanish *vizcacha*, from Quechua *wiskacha*.]

vis·cer·a (vîs'ər-ə) *pl.n.* 1. The soft internal organs of the body, especially those contained within the abdominal and thoracic cavities. 2. The intestines. [Latin *viscera*, pl. of *viscus*.]

vis·cer·al (vîs'ər-əl) *adj.* 1. Relating to, situated in, or affecting the viscera. 2. Perceived in or as if in the viscera; profound. 3. Instinctive: *visceral needs*. See Synonyms at **instinctive**. —**vis·cer·al·ly** *adv.*

vis·cer·o·mo·tor (vîs'ər-ə-mō'tər) *adj.* Producing or relating to movements of the viscera.

vis·cid (vîs'id) *adj.* 1. Thick and adhesive. Used of a fluid. 2. Covered with a sticky or clammy coating. [Late Latin *viscidus*, from Latin *viscum*, mistletoe, birdlime made from mistletoe berries.] —**vis·cid·i·ty**, **vis·cid·ness** *n.* —**vis·cid·ly** *adv.*

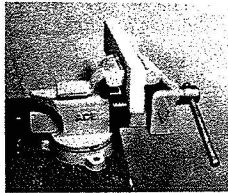
vis·com·e·ter (vî-skōm'î-tər) *n.* An instrument used to measure viscosity. Also called **viscosimeter**. [Short for **VISCOSIMETER**.] —**vis·co·met'ric** (vîs'kə-mēt'rik) *adj.* —**vis·com'e·try** *n.*

Vis·con·ti (vîs-kōn'tē, vēs-kōn'-), **Gian Galeazzo**. 1351?-1402. Milanese leader who conquered Siena (1399), Perugia (1400), and Bologna (1402) and was a noted patron of the arts.

vis·cose (vîs'kōs') *n.* 1. A thick, golden-brown viscous solution of cellulose xanthate, used in the manufacture of rayon and cellophane. 2. Viscose rayon. —**viscose** *adj.* 1. Viscous. 2. Of, relating to, or made from viscose. [VISC(OUS) + -OSE².] *Adj.* sense 1, Middle English, viscous, from Late Latin *viscōsus*, from Latin *viscum*, mistletoe, birdlime made from mistletoe berries.]

viscose rayon *n.* A rayon made by reconstituting cellulose from a soluble xanthate form to tough fibers by washing in acid.

vis·co·sim·e·ter (vîs'kə-sîm'î-tər) *n.* See **viscosimeter**.



vise

Vishnu
Tenth-century bronze